REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this case. All claims have been rejected.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, claims 1 and 9 were rejected as containing an antecedent basis problem that has now been addressed as required. Claims 1-27 are deemed to be in conformance with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Banning (US Patent No. 6,380,957 B1). The rejection under 35 USC 102(e) is respectfully traversed.

Banning teaches a system for the display of whole trees within a single computer system. Banning teaches a method of vertically compacting the display by closing all tree branches except a branch of interest. Banning is silent on the manner of transferring tree information from a server to a client.

In contrast, the present invention as claimed defines a function not taught in Banning, namely that "the tree descriptor string comprises a list of only those said nodes which are to be expanded and displayed on the display device". By including in the list only those nodes which are to be expanded and displayed, it is then not necessary to transfer the totality of the tree information from the server to the client. This is clearly not taught in Banning.

Independent claims 1, 13, 20, and 27 are reproduced below, with the above limitation underlined:

1.   A system for transferring information in a computer network from a server to a client computer, the information including a plurality of hierarchically related objects, wherein a viewable subset of the objects is displayed on a display device connected to the client computer in the form of a navigable tree having expandable nodes, the viewable subset being visible in a navigation pane on the display device, the system comprising:

a tree descriptor array comprising information describing each of the objects to be displayed in the navigation pane; and

a tree descriptor string comprising information describing a hierarchical structure of expanded nodes in the tree;

wherein the tree descriptor array and the tree descriptor string are sent from the server to the client computer; and

wherein the tree descriptor string comprises a list of only those said nodes which are to be expanded and displayed on the display device.

13.   A system for transferring information in a computer network from a server to a client computer, the information including a plurality of hierarchically related objects, wherein a viewable subset of the objects is displayed on a display device connected to the client computer in the form of a navigable tree having expandable nodes represented by container objects, the viewable subset being visible in a navigation pane on the display device, the system comprising:

a tree descriptor array comprising information describing each of the objects to be displayed in the navigation pane; and

a tree descriptor string comprising information describing a hierarchical structure of said container objects that are open;

wherein the tree descriptor array and the tree descriptor string are sent from the server to the client computer; and

wherein the tree descriptor string contains a list of only those said container objects which have been opened.

20.   A method for transferring information in a computer network from a server to a client computer, the information including a plurality of hierarchically related objects, wherein a viewable subset of the objects is displayed on a display device connected to the client computer in the form of a navigable tree having expandable nodes, the viewable subset being visible in a navigation pane on the display device, the method comprising the steps of:

sending, from the client computer to the server, tree descriptor information describing a hierarchical structure of the nodes that are to be expanded;

determining a tree segment to be displayed in the navigation pane in response to the tree descriptor information received from the client computer; and

sending, from the server to the client computer, a list of each of the objects in the tree segment to be displayed, and information describing each of the objects to be displayed;

wherein said tree descriptor information comprises a list of only the nodes that are to be expanded.

27.   A method for transferring information in a computer network from a server to a client computer, the information including a plurality of hierarchically related objects, wherein a viewable subset of the objects is displayed on a display device connected to the client computer in the form of a navigable tree having expandable nodes, the viewable subset being visible in a navigation pane on the display device, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a tree descriptor array comprising information describing each of the objects to be displayed in the navigation pane;

generating a tree descriptor string comprising information describing a hierarchical structure of expanded nodes in the tree; and

sending the tree descriptor array and the tree descriptor string from the server to the client computer;

wherein the tree descriptor string comprises a list of only those said nodes which are to be expanded and displayed on the display device.

For the reasons given above, claims 1, 13, 20, and 27 are deemed to be allowable under 35 USC 102(e). All remaining claims 2-12, 14-19, and

21-26 are deemed to be allowable under 35 USC 102(e) as depending from an allowable base claim. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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